














Guest Speakers

-  **Al Batt** from rural Hartland, Minnesota is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. Al lives in the Batt Cave with his wife Gail (a.k.a. “The Queen B”) and their dog, Towhee. Al writes three weekly humor and nature columns for many newspapers and books including *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series and *Minnesota Bird Watching*. Al appears weekly on “Memories and Musing” on KSMQ- TV, does a regular radio show, writes cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally, has written jokes for a former President of the United States, and has been named Birder of the Year by *WildBird Magazine*. Al has received the Ed Franey Conservation Media Award and leads bird tours to Alaska & Costa Rica.
-  **Gaea Crozier** is a Non- Game Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and is currently working on Northern Goshawks. She earned her B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin and her M.S. in Biology from the University of Minnesota. She has conducted bird surveys for the past 10 years. Gaea is an avid birder and will help you with learning birding techniques for identification.
-  **Don Graves** is an Instructor at Rainy River Community College. He has taught Biology and Geology in the Minnesota State College and University System for over 17 years and has been birding for nearly 25 years. He has led numerous birding groups in Voyageurs and has vast knowledge of the natural history of the boreal biome.
-  **Lee Grim** is a retired Ornithologist and Biology Instructor and has been a Biologist at Voyageurs since 1973. Lee received his degrees in Biology, Zoology and Wildlife Management from North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota. Lee has obtained a wealth of knowledge about the birds that live and migrate through Voyageurs, especially warblers. Lee enjoys teaching people about the ecology and habitats of birds.
-  **Marshall Helmberger** is the Editor of the TimberJay newspaper. He is a Minnesota native and has lived in Northern Minnesota since 1984. Marshall is an avid birder and has led bird trips for over 20 years.
-  **Chris Holbeck** is the Chief of Resources Management at Voyageurs National Park. He is a graduate of Northland College with a B.S. in Biology. Chris started birding casually with his mother 30 years ago. He conducted breeding bird surveys in Wyoming for the National Park Service before learning the birds of the Mojave desert. He looks forward to each outing with the anticipation of another winged discovery.
-  **Ahlan Johanson** lives in Fort Frances, Ontario and has been birding for more than 5 years. He retired from the Ministry of Natural Resources where he worked for the lands and parks department. He received his degree in Forestry from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and has been an active member of the Rainy River Field Naturalists since his retirement. Ahlan enjoys the outdoors, fishing and leading bird hikes.
-  **Dee Kuder** grew up in the Twin Cities and spent summers in Moose Lake, MN. Her family was always actively involved in birdwatching and 25 years ago, she started her life list of birds. Dee and her husband made their way to Crane Lake 15 years ago. Dee is the Administrative Director of the Crane Lake Visitor & Tourism Bureau.
-  **Ilka Milne** manages the Nature Conservancy Canada’s Northwest Ontario program. Starting with two sleepless summers prowling for owls for her Masters in Science thesis, she has been birding in the Rainy River District for 13 years. As a musician, Ilka likes identifying birds by ear.
-  **Tawnya Schoewe** is a District Naturalist at Voyageurs. Tawnya received her degrees in Forestry and Biology from Itasca Community College and Bemidji State University. She owned and operated *Independent Naturalists* and was a college instructor in Forestry and Ecology.
-  **Bob Smalley** is an avid birder originally from Canada who now lives in International Falls. Bob is retired but keeps busy with his own landscape business and traveling to Costa Rica. He has been birding for more than 16 years and loves to share his knowledge with people.
-  **Tim Terrell** is an avid artist, and also the Director of Park Stewardship Through the Arts (PASTA), a non- profit organization that seeks to connect people to public land through the creation of and appreciation for art.
-  **Steve Windels** is a Biologist at Voyageurs. He received his degree in Wildlife Management and a PhD in Forest Ecology from Michigan Technological University, for which he researched the Canada Yew. Steve has been birding for over 9 years .